

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

OMB-01 /069 W

----- 083479

R 011525Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3021

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0281

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR

SUBJECT: ARREST OF THE ONLY FOREIGN NEWSMAN IN LIBYA

1. TRIPOLI'S DIPLOMATIC CORPS IS BUZZING WITH THE NEWS THAT LAST WEEK THE LAST FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT IN LIBYA, A YUGOSLAV NAMED PETROVIC, WAS ARRESTED. THE CHARGE IS SAID TO BE ESPIONAGE. PETROVIC WORKED FOR THE LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY, ARNA, PREPARING ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSIONS OF ARNA BULLETINS, BUT AT THE SAME TIME SERVES AS A STRINGER FOR AFP AND RECENTLY REUTER. HE WAS ALSO A FAVORITE SOURCE FOR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN TOWN.

2. IT WILL NOT BE HARD FOR LIBYAN AUTHORITIES TO MAKE OUT A CASE AGAINST PETROVIC FOR ESPIONAGE, SINCE HE HAS NEVER MADE A SECRET OF HIS CONTACTS WITH BOTH DIPLOMATS AND PARA-DIPLOMATS, BUT THE MYSTERY IS WHAT PRECIPITATED HIS ARREST NOW. PETROVIC WAS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN ON BAD TERMS WITH HEAD OF ARNA, SAAD MUJBAR AND THIS MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH HIS ARREST. IN ANY CASE, HIS REMOVAL FROM THE SCENE MEANS THAT THERE IS NOW NO ONE LEFT IN LIBYA TO PROVIDE AN ACCOUNT OF EVENTS TO THE PRESS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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